



# Easy Comic Book or Magazine Shelves

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## TOOLS:

- [Electric or Hand Saw \(1\)](#)
- [Hammer \(1\)](#)
- [Needle Nose Pliers \(1\)](#)
- [Paint and brushes \(1\)](#)
- [Screwdriver, medium \(1\)](#)



## PARTS:

- [1/4" x 1" piece of basswood, 24 inches long \(1\)](#)  
*[one for each length of shelving](#)*
- [1/2" x 1/2" piece of basswood, 24 inches long \(1\)](#)  
*[one for each length of shelving](#)*
- [sturdy wire, to the length of your shelf plus about two inches \(I used 28-gauge\) \(1\)](#)
- [wood nails, 2- to 3-inches long \(2\)](#)
- [Wood screws \(2\)](#)

## Step 1 — Easy Comic Book or Magazine Shelves



- Comic books are tough to store: the traditional boxes are ugly, and shelving them is super-inconvenient. So, inspired by how they're displayed in stores, I tossed off these simple shelves in just over an hour.
- If you decide to build yourself a set of these shelves (they'd be great for displaying magazines, too!), you don't necessarily need to have wall or molding abutting the ends—I think they'd work great free-floating or end-to-end on a longer section of wall.

## Step 2



- You'll need (for each section of shelving):
  - one 1/4 x 1-inch piece of basswood, 24 inches long (your front slats)
  - one 1/2 x 1/2-inch piece of basswood, 24 inches long (your base piece)
  - sturdy wire, to the length of your shelf plus about two inches (I used 28-gauge)
  - two wood nails, 2- to 3-inches long two wood screws
- Tools required:
  - Paint and brushes, if you like.
  - Needle-nose pliers. A small hand saw (if you need to cut wood to length). Hammer.
  - Screwdriver

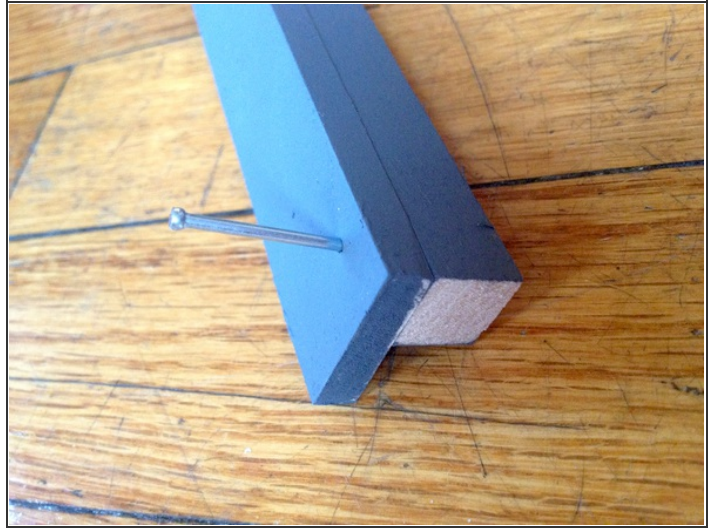
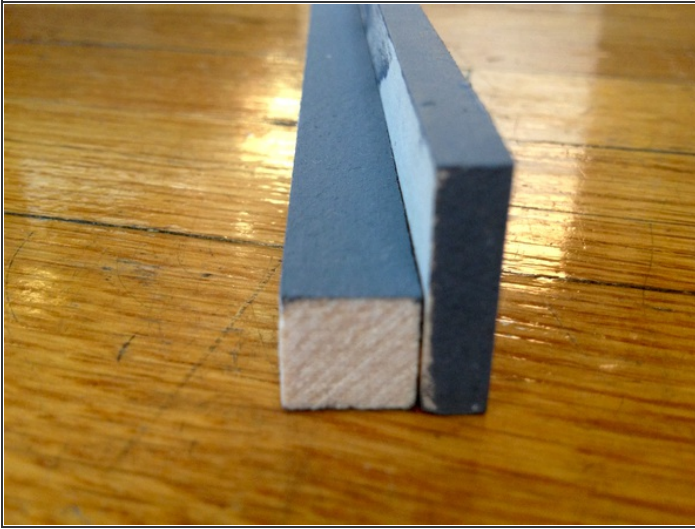
### Step 3



- Cut and paint the wood (about 40 minutes, including drying time).
- I painted the flat slats on all sides, though only the top, front, and bottom will be visible to a casual observer.
- I only painted the top and bottom of the thicker pieces, though only the bottoms will be visible.
- I left the front and back sides unpainted as they will be nailed to the flat slats and the wall.
- If you have a place to do it safely, you could easily use spray paint.

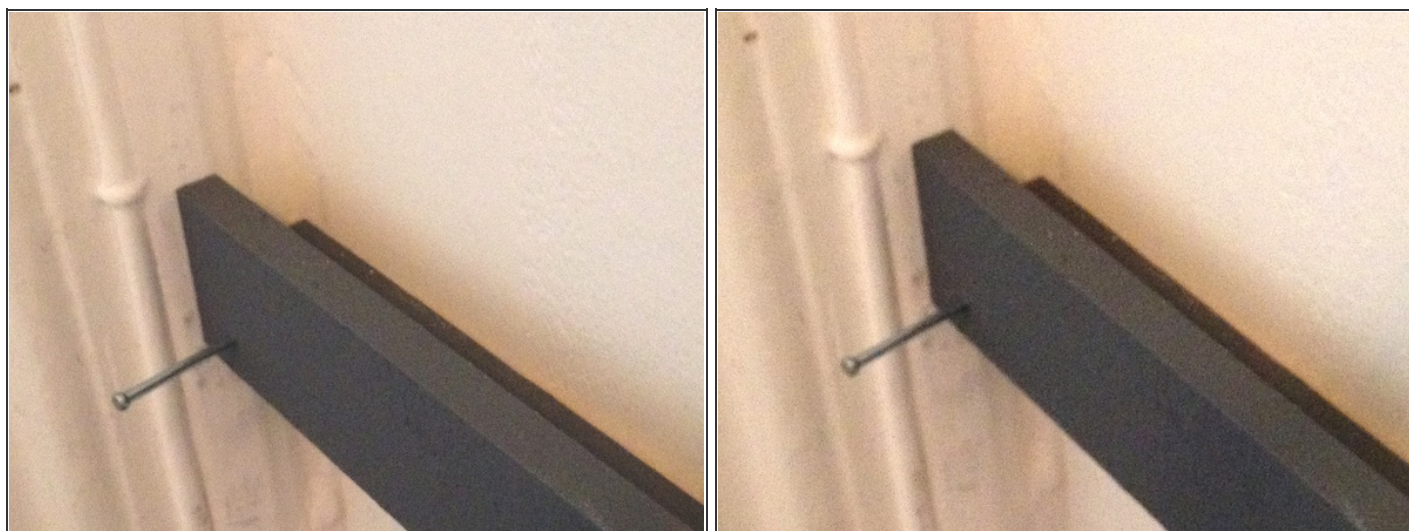


## Step 4



- Assemble the shelves (five minutes).
  - Position your long nails approximately a half-inch from the end of each slat, a quarter-inch from the bottom of the shelf (that means centered in the thicker base).
  - Use my photos as a guide. Drive the nail through the flat piece and nearly all the way into your base piece.

## Step 5



- Hang the shelves (5-10 minutes).
  - Make sure that the shelves are level, and that there is at least a foot of space between them. Use your tallest comic or magazine as a guide. There should be at least two inches of space between the top of the book and the bottom of the shelf above it.
  - Measure twice, bang once: when you're certain of the positioning, hammer the nails completely through and into the wall.
  - If you like, daub some paint over the nail heads to hide them. (Forgive the condition of the walls; my apartment building was built in 1888!)

## Step 6



- Hang the wire reinforcements (about 15 minutes).
  - Use your needle-nose pliers to create a small loop in the wire, large enough for a wood screw. I experimented with wide-head nails, but trust me on the screws.
  - Start a hole by hammering the tip of the screw into the wall six inches above the top of each shelf: high enough to bear weight, but low enough to accommodate “mini” comics.
  - Make the wire as snug as you can, using the tension from screwing in the screws to assist.

## Step 7



- Fill the shelves with comics! (Time: as long as it takes to curate.)
- That's it! You've built some seriously impressive-looking custom comic book or magazine shelves in less than two hours.